

Circular Letter # 59

November 19, 1929

The Use of the English Periods in
the Second and Third Grades of the
Urban Schools.

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SAN JUAN

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COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
SAN JUAN, P. R.

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Subject: THE USE OF THE ENGLISH PERIODS IN THE SECOND AND
THIRD GRADES OF THE URBAN SCHOOLS.

Supervisors of Schools.-

Your attention is called to the following arrangement for the use of the English periods in the second and third grades of the elementary urban schools.

SECOND GRADE

1. Single Enrollment.

a. THE FORTY-MINUTE MORNING PERIOD:

This shall be devoted to ORAL ENGLISH only, the class reciting in two different groups. The Seat Work for either group, during this period, shall be English seat work. This may consist of the following: 1. Copying from the blackboard English words already known to the children. 2. Building English words with letters printed on small cardboard or paper squares. 3. Writing the English names of certain objects and things known to the pupils through their Oral English classes. Later in the year, the writing of short sentences may be had.

The English Reading to be done in this morning period shall be limited to the reading of the words taught in the Oral English classes. No word should be read which has not been previously learned through the Oral English classes.

b. THE FORTY-MINUTE AFTERNOON PERIOD:

This shall be divided into two consecutive twenty-minute periods. These two twenty-minute periods are to be used in a general class each. The first of these two general classes shall be devoted to Oral English only. It may serve to review with the entire group what has been taught in the morning classes. In many instances it may permit the teacher to teach one or two additional new words. The second of these two general classes shall be devoted to English READING only, the material to be used being found on pages 8 to 23 of Bulletin No. 11 of this Department, issued September, 1929, under the title "English Reading for the Second Grade". The instructions given in this Bulletin should be followed faithfully if good results are desired.

2. Double Enrollment.

Wherever this grade is organized on this plan, ~~THREE~~ general classes in English are taught in the morning session to a group of children, and one general class in English in the afternoon session to a different group of children.

Under the above arrangement, which is practically similar to the arrangement followed for the FIRST grade, the first two general classes shall be devoted to Oral English only, with the incidental visualization and reading of the words taught. The third general class in the morning session shall be devoted to Reading from the Bulletin.

The general class in English for the afternoon session shall be devoted to Oral English only, with the incidental visualization and reading of the words taught. This group of children will take up Reading from the Bulletin during the week in which they attend school in the morning.

THIRD GRADE

In order to provide for the language period from now on the following arrangement should be followed:

a. The forty-minute morning period shall be devoted to Reading alone, the class reciting in two groups. MY LITTLE FRIENDS' READING BOOK should be read at this period during the first four days of the week. The SPANISH AMERICAN READER and the LIBRARY books are to be read Fridays.

b. The forty-minute afternoon period shall be divided as follows:

1. A forty-minute two-group recitation period in Oral English, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

2. A twenty-minute general class period in Oral English, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

3. A twenty-minute general class in Language, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) JUAN B. HUYKE,
Commissioner of Education.

jpb/mb